

**ESEA FLEXIBILITY
Amendment Submission**

Dear Assistant Secretary:

I am writing on behalf of the South Dakota Department of Education to request approval to amend the State's approved ESEA flexibility request. The relevant information, outlined in the *ESEA Flexibility Amendment Submission Process* document, is provided in the table below.

Flexibility Element(s) Affected by the Amendment	Brief Description of Element as Originally Approved	Brief Description of Requested Amendment	Rationale
Principle One and Two	<p>1. Administer the Dakota STEP test in English-language arts and math to all students in grades 3-8 and 11 in the 2013-14 school year.</p> <p>2. For students with the most severe cognitive disabilities who require an alternate assessment, administer the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) in the 2013-</p>	<p>1. Administer the Smarter Balanced field test in English-language arts and math to all students in grades 3-8 and 11, <u>in place of</u> the Dakota STEP, in the 2013-14 school year. The only exception would be in the case of Hutterite Colony schools that choose to administer the current Dakota STEP test, which is a paper-pencil test.</p>	<p>1. Students are not subjected to double testing.</p> <p>2. All students take both an English-language arts and math assessment.</p> <p>3. Students are tested on standards they are currently learning in the classroom, rather than old standards.</p> <p>4. School districts and the state agency have a chance to address any capacity issues surrounding technology prior to assessment results being used to make accountability designations.</p> <p>5. Students, teachers, schools and districts have exposure to/practice with the new assessments in a low-stress environment.</p>

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1810-0581.

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	<p>14 school year.</p> <p>3. Use the results of these assessments as the basis for calculating a school's Student Achievement Indicator score for the School Performance Index, and as part of the process for assigning accountability determinations for the 2014-15 school year.</p>	<p>2. Administer the National Center and State Collaborative Alternate Assessment pilot test in English-language arts and math <u>in pilot schools</u> to students with the most severe cognitive disabilities in the 2013-14 school year. Students would take the pilot test in one subject and the Dakota STEP Alternate in the other subject.</p> <p>For non-pilot schools, administer the current Dakota STEP Alternate Assessment.</p> <p>3. Hold accountability determinations in place for the 2013-14 school year steady for the 2014-15 school</p>	

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		year, but continue to report all other available accountability data (eg., attendance rate, 4-year cohort graduation rate, completion rate, college readiness, as well as participation data).	

South Dakota acknowledges that the U.S. Department of Education may request supplementary information to inform consideration of this request.

Chief State School Officer

Date